

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

- 1 1. A method for obtaining a geographic location of an Internet user that accesses
2 the Internet from a private network through a proxy server, comprising:
3 receiving a request for information from an Internet user through the proxy server;
4 determining that the request for information is through the proxy server;
5 redirecting the request for information to an internal server of the private network, the
6 internal server determining the geographic location of the Internet user;
7 receiving the geographic location from the internal server within the private network;
8 and
9 using the geographic location of the Internet user in handling the request for
10 information from the Internet user.

- 1 2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein redirecting the request for
2 information to the internal server comprises sending the request for information to the
3 Internet user's machine, the Internet user's machine directing the request for information to
4 the internal server.

- 1 3. A method for determining a geographic location of an Internet user that
2 accesses the Internet from a private network through a proxy server, comprising:

3 receiving a request for the geographic location of the Internet user within the private
4 network, the request originating from an external network outside of the private network;
5 detecting that the request for the geographic location of the Internet user was
6 redirected from the external network;
7 determining the geographic location of the Internet user; and
8 sending the geographic location to the external network.

1 4. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein receiving the request for the
2 geographic location originating from the external network comprises receiving the request
3 from the Internet user's machine.

1 5. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein determining the geographic
2 location comprises determining the geographic location based on the Internet user's internal
3 address and a geographic location/internal IP address mapping table contained within the
4 private network.

1 6. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein determining the geographic
2 location comprises:
3 determining an internal address of the Internet user; and
4 accessing a geographic location/internal IP address mapping table contained within
5 the private network.

1 7. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein sending the geographic location to
2 the external network comprises:

3 sending the geographic location to the Internet user's machine; and
4 redirecting the Internet user's machine to the external network.

1 8. A method for obtaining a geographic location of an Internet user that accesses
2 the Internet from a private network through a proxy server, comprising:

3 receiving a request for the geographic location of the Internet user from a requestor
4 outside of the private network;

5 determining that the request for the geographic location is from the Internet user
6 located inside the private network having the proxy server;

7 redirecting the request for the geographic location to an internal server in the private
8 network, the internal server determining the geographic location of the Internet user;

9 receiving the geographic location from the internal server within the private network;
10 and

11 sending the geographic location to the requestor who is outside the private network.

1 9. The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein redirecting the request for
2 information to the internal server comprises sending the request for information to the
3 Internet user's machine, the Internet user's machine directing the request for information to
4 the internal server

1 10. A method for resolving a domain name inquiry to assist in gathering
2 geographic location of an Internet user, comprising:
3 receiving the domain name inquiry, the domain name inquiry being issued by the
4 Internet user;
5 determining if the inquiry originated from within a private network;
6 resolving the inquiry by returning a first IP address if the inquiry did not originate
7 from within the private network, the first IP address being associated with an external server
8 located outside of the private network; and
9 resolving the inquiry by returning a second IP address if the inquiry did originate from
10 within the private network, the second IP address being associated with an internal server
11 located inside the private network;
12 wherein the internal server and the external server are for determining the geographic
13 location of the Internet user and for making this geographic location information available.

1 11. The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein receiving the inquiry on the
2 domain name comprises receiving the inquiry at a domain name server.

1 12. The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the resolving by returning the
2 first IP address and the resolving by returning the second IP address are performed by a
3 domain name server.